

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 1, please amend the paragraph spanning lines 5-12 to read as follows:

Usage of optical spectroscopic techniques for analytical purposes is as such known from the prior art. ~~WO 02/057758 A1 US 6,687,520~~ and ~~WO 02/057759 A1 US 2004/0096913~~ show spectroscopic analysis apparatuses for in vivo non-invasive spectroscopic analysis of the composition of blood flowing through a capillary vessel of a patient. The capillary vessel is imaged by a monitoring system and an excitation beam is directed to the capillary vessel in order to perform the spectroscopic analysis. For example near-infrared radiation is used for excitation of Raman scattering. The Raman scattered radiation is spectroscopically analyzed for determination of blood properties.

On page 2, please amend the paragraph spanning lines 1-7 to read as follows:

Suitable imaging methods include orthogonal polarized spectral imaging (OPSI), confocal video microscopy (CVM), optical coherence tomography (OCT), confocal laser scanning microscopy (CLSM) and Doppler based imaging. Corresponding imaging techniques are disclosed in the International Patent Application ~~WO 02/057759 US 2004/0096913~~ and the non-published European Patent Application with Application number 03100689.3 ~~US 2007/0049830~~ and 03102481.3 ~~US 2006/0235308~~, patent attorney docket number PHNL030251 and PHNL030944, respectively, the whole of which is herein incorporated by reference.

On page 9, after the last paragraph ending on line 29, please add the following paragraph:

The invention has been described with reference to the preferred embodiments. Modifications and alterations may occur to others upon reading and understanding the preceding detailed description. It is intended that the invention be

construed as including all such modifications and alterations insofar as they come within the scope of the appended claims or the equivalents thereof.

Please delete the "List of Reference Numerals:" on pages 10, 11, and 12 in its entirety.